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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,167	05/09/2001	Ernie Eugene Cowman	13DV13604	3969
6111	7590	07/02/2004	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY ANDREW C HESS GE AIRCRAFT ENGINES ONE NEUMANN WAY M/D H17 CINCINNATI, OH 452156301			HILLERY, NATHAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	
DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/852,167

Applicant(s)

COWMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Nathan Hillery

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/21/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Power of Attorney filed on 8/26/02.
2. Claims 1 – 13 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 4, 7, and 10 are independent.

### *Specification*

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because undue length. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandifer (as cited by Applicant).

7. **Regarding independent claim 7**, Sandifer teaches that *the maintenance and repair information system 10 features integrated electronic logbooks that contain both aircraft profiles and compliance information. The aircraft profiles store the manufacturer, model, and serial number information for the airframe and each major component associated with an aircraft, thereby simplifying information retrieval by using a global reference, such as a tail number. The status of compliance with Airworthiness Directives and manufacturer service information is also maintained for each component, allowing users to determine whether or not an aircraft is in compliance with airworthiness regulations. The maintenance and repair information system 10 also provides a portable means of storing profile and compliance records and transferring them with the aircraft from one service center to another (Column 4, line 62 – Column 5, line 9), and that this system is structured for collection and integration of the publications of the aircraft industry into a repository database (Column 3, lines 41 – 44), which provide for a) a plurality of configuration logs, each i) corresponding to a single aircraft; ii) comprising multiple versions b) a plurality of database records, each corresponding to a respective maintenance event, and that regarding graphics display, graphics are the figures associated with publications. These bit-mapped images are configured as pages within an InnerView document (Column 15, lines 18 – 20), which provide for each containing i) a bitmap of a document which describes the maintenance event; that of the fields available in the Temporary Profile dialog box, the user must provide at least the manufacturer and model of the listed components in order to perform a search. Serial number can also be available as a search tool*

(Column 31, lines 13 – 16), which provide for **ii) a searchable field containing the registration number of the aircraft maintained; and that the other option buttons function the same as the Inspections options. The search option allows the user to search by Action, compliance type, compliance date...** (Column 36, lines 39 – 43), which provide for **iii) a searchable field containing the date of the maintenance event.** Sandifer does not explicitly teach **each version describing the configuration of the aircraft during a respective time period.** However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to be motivated to use the invention of Sandifer and provide for **each version describing the configuration of the aircraft during a respective time period,** since the system of Sandifer keeps track of compliance information for an aircraft it would benefit the user of such a system to know when the aircraft complies and what was its configuration when it did or did not.

8. **Regarding dependent claim 8,** Sandifer teaches that *a publication type refers to a category of publication. For example, AD is a publication type, AD 89-02-12 is a publication of that publication type* (Column 8, lines 50 – 52), and that *the user can further limit the number of publication types to be used in an upcoming search by selecting certain publications (in the case of regulatory, a user selects publication types)* (Column 31, lines 64 – 67), which provide for **each database record further contains a searchable field containing a number identifying the type of document contained in the bitmap.**

9. **Regarding dependent claim 9,** Sandifer does not explicitly teach **each database record contains no additional searchable fields.** However, it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to be motivated to do so in conjunction with the invention of Sandifer because limiting the search criteria to only a few searchable fields ensures that the user will not be overwhelmed and/or confused by what is exactly being searched within the database.

10. **Regarding dependent claim 11**, Sandifer teaches that *the icon oriented graphical user interface of the maintenance and repair information system 10 pictorially simplifies access to assure maximum productivity with minimum training time. The use of GAMA standard color conventions creates intuitive hyperlinks. The extensive use of pop-up and on-line help facilities, as well as the readily available tutorial function, provide the user with on-screen guidance whenever it is needed* (Column 4, lines 7 – 15), which provides that **the digital version is i) displayable on a computer screen, and ii) transmittable over a computer network.**

11. **Regarding dependent claim 6**, Sandifer teaches that *of the fields available in the Temporary Profile dialog box, the user must provide at least the manufacturer and model of the listed components in order to perform a search* (Column 31, lines 13 – 16), which provide for **e) searching the multiple versions of the log for text representing a specific component.** Sandifer does not explicitly teach **f) when text is found in a version, identifying the version's time period, and searching for records which match that time period, to thereby locate a description of the maintenance in the records.** However, Sandifer does teach that *the other option buttons function the same as the Inspections options. The search option allows the user to search by Action, compliance type, compliance date...* (Column 36, lines 39 – 43). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to be motivated to provide that **f) when text is found in a version, identifying the version's time period, and searching for records which match that time period, to thereby locate a description of the maintenance in the records**, since it will allow the user to narrow down his or her search in order to help the user better find what he or she wants.

12. **Regarding dependent claim 2**, Sandifer illustrates in Figure 48 that **i) the description is contained on a bitmap copy of a government-issue form bearing a government designation**.

13. **Regarding independent claim 1**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 7, and is rejected along the same rationale.

14. **Regarding dependent claim 3**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claims 7 and 9, and is rejected along the same rationale.

15. **Regarding independent claim 4**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claims 7 and 9, and is rejected along the same rationale.

16. **Regarding dependent claim 5**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 7, and is rejected along the same rationale.

17. **Regarding independent claim 10**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claims 7 and 8, and is rejected along the same rationale.

18. **Regarding dependent claim 12**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 7, and is rejected along the same rationale.

19. **Regarding dependent claim 13**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 7, and is rejected along the same rationale.


**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan Hillery whose telephone number is (703) 305-4502. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NH

  
**JOSEPH FEILD**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**